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Follow-Up on the News

U.N. Spy Talk

There was, said Arkady N. Shevchenko, "very substantial" penetration by Soviet intelligence into the United Nations Secretariat. The one-time Soviet diplomat, who was an Under Secretary General of the United Nations when he defected to this country in 1978, made the allegation in an interview that was broadcast in Britain last September.

He said one Soviet agent was a special assistant to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim; the narrator for the broadcast said the only Russian in that post was Viktor M. Leslovsky. Mr. Shevchenko said another well-placed spy was Geli Dneprovsky, chief of personnel at the United Nations in Geneva.

The reaction so far at the United Nations in New York?

"None whatever," says a spokesman, François Giuliani. Both men are still employed, he says, noting that "al-

legations are one thing," proof another.

"If any government — U.S. or other — wishes to approach the United Nations on these grounds and with substantiation that these people who are allegedly spies are spies — and can provide proof that they are — then they will be dismissed," Mr. Giuliani says.